

**ANNUAL OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS  
SAWTOOTH NATIONAL FOREST  
MINIDOKA RANGER DISTRICT  
Clarks Basin C&H/S&G  
Grazing Year 2021**

The following letter will document your meeting with Chantel Anderson on March 3, 2021 and will serve as your Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) for the 2021 grazing season on the **Clarks Basin C&H/S&G Allotment**. The District Ranger must approve, in writing, any changes to this AOI.

The following table displays the permitted numbers and seasons of use for the Clarks Basin Allotment:

**Clarks Basin Common Use C&H/S&G  
PERMITTED USE**

<b>Allotment</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Season</b>
Clarks Basin C&H	c/c	150	6/1-7/1
	c/c	225	9/5-10/10
TOTAL	c/c	375	
Clarks Basin S&G	e/l	2000	5/16-7/11
TOTAL	e/l	2000	5/16-7/11

For the 2021 grazing season, you are authorized to graze the Clarks Basin Allotment as follows:

**Clarks Basin Common Use C&H/S&G  
AUTHORIZED USE**

<b>Permittee</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Season</b>
Kunzler Sheep and Cattle LLC	c/c	150	6/1-7/1
	c/c	225	9/5-10/10
TOTAL	c/c	375	
Kunzler Sheep and Cattle LLC	e/l	2000	5/6-7/1
TOTAL	e/l	2000	5/6-7/1

**Clarks Basin C&H Portion  
2021 PASTURE ROTATION**

<b>PASTURE</b>	<b>CLASS</b>	<b># OF LIVESTOCK</b>	<b>ON DATE</b>	<b>OFF DATE</b>	<b>TOTAL DAYS</b>
Rocky Hollow*	c/c	150	6/1	7/1	31
Clarks Basin*	c/c	225	9/5	10/10	36

\*Spring and fall cattle need to stagger on in numbers and stagger off in numbers as in the past. Spring cattle should be kept in the Rocky Hollow pasture and fall cattle should be kept in the Clarks Basin pasture. On-date and off-date are somewhat flexible, but the total days must be kept the same.

**Clarks Basin S&G Portion  
Band 1  
2021 ROTATION**

PASTURE	CLASS	# OF LIVESTOCK	ON DATE	OFF DATE	TOTAL DAYS
On Forest from private, east half of Lynn Pasture	e/l	1000	5/6*	5/11	6
East half of Rocky Canyon	e/l	1000	5/12	5/19	8
Little Basin	e/l	1000	5/20	6/5	17
Buck Hollow	e/l	1000	6/6	6/19	14
West half Rocky Canyon and Lynn Pasture	e/l	1000	6/20	7/1	12

\*Dependent upon range readiness. On-date and off-date can be adjusted if needed based on range readiness but total days cannot exceed 57.

**Clarks Basin S&G Portion  
Band 2  
2021 ROTATION**

PASTURE	CLASS	# OF LIVESTOCK	ON DATE	OFF DATE	TOTAL DAYS
On Forest from Private Clarks Basin	e/l	1000	5/6*	5/19	14
Little Basin	e/l	1000	5/20	6/8	20
Pine Springs	e/l	1000	6/9	7/1	23

\*Dependent upon range readiness. On-date and off-date can be adjusted if needed based on range readiness but total days cannot exceed 57.

**Livestock Management**

On dates for this allotment are dependent upon lambing season and range readiness. Please coordinate with your Rangeland Management Specialist once you have confirmed the dates you will enter the allotment with each sheep band and cattle herd.

The grazing system on this allotment for sheep is a deferred rotation. The rotation is reversed each year. On dates may need to be adjusted based upon range readiness. These dates are approximate and depend on meeting allowable use standards. How soon the maximum allowable use level is reached depends on the number of animals, weather, herding, and other permittee practices. It will be your responsibility to see that your livestock are moved from one unit to the next before maximum allowed use is exceeded. Rotation/removal of livestock will be required if allowable use levels are met before the planned rotation/removal date.

**SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

**Aspen Stand Management**

The Forest Service would like to coordinate with you to develop a plan for improving conditions within some of the aspen stands on the allotment. You are encouraged to herd livestock out of aspen stands, to not bed or noon sheep within the stands, and to salt away from them.

**Clarks Basin and Pine Springs Water Development Projects:** Lost GIP funding last year. Need to figure out when and how to get these done.

**July 19, 2018 Letter**

- Ensure that critter escape ramps are placed in all troughs, including temporary water sets. The Forest Service will provide these if you need more; please contact your RMS to receive them.
- Salt may not be placed within ¼ mile of water sources (developed or natural), and should be placed at sheep bedding grounds.
- Picketed horses need to be routinely moved, especially if grazing in or near riparian areas.
- Once over light use of the allotment is encouraged, and sheep must be bedded in a new location each night.

**SHEEP MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS:**

**BIGHORN SHEEP-**

- 1) The permittee will notify the Minidoka Ranger District of all bighorn sheep sightings as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours
- 2) Herders will count marker sheep daily to assure that no small groups of sheep have separated from the band
- 3) If herders observe bighorn sheep in close proximity (less than 1 mile) they will haze the bighorn out of the area and if necessary, adjust the trailing or grazing route to minimize the possibility of direct contact with domestic sheep

**PREDATOR CONTROL** - Use of guard animals (dogs, donkeys, etc.) is strongly recommended. Predator losses are reduced with the use of guard animals.

**WATER HAULING-** To ensure uniform use of this allotment, water hauling is very important. Care must be used in placing water and changing watering locations as often as possible to avoid trampling from trailing to the same location.

**BED GROUNDS-** *Sheep must be bedded down in different locations each night.* Please ensure that the herder understands this.

**HERDING-** *The key to proper management of this sheep range, with its limited water, is once-over light use.* The sheep must not be allowed to over use any one area on the allotment especially, with the possibility of a drought season.

In an effort to minimize soil disturbance and erosion, keep concentrated bands of sheep off steep slopes. If steep hill slopes cannot be avoided, contour across the slope in a loose manner, rather than moving the animals in a tight group directly downhill. Make an effort to graze, rather than trail to water.

**HORSES-** Care should be used around camping areas so that the herder's horses don't over graze these areas. This may require supplemental feed if you plan to stay in one camp location for any length of time. It is preferred that the herder not have more than two horses at any one time.

-Any hay or straw that is brought onto National Forest System lands needs to be State-certified weed free.

**CAMPING-** The herder is to see that the camp areas are kept clean. All garbage is to be hauled off the Forest. Forest policy is "Pack it in/Pack it out".

**FIRE-** At no time is a campfire to be left unattended. Campfires must be dead out before leaving camp. If the grazing season turns out to be hot and dry, campfires may be disallowed. Each camp should have a water bucket, a good shovel, and an axe at all times.

#### **COMPLIANCE:**

This AOI is made part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8(a). Situations may develop during the grazing season which require changes to these instructions, such as delayed range readiness, early achievement of allowable use standards, unit rotation changes related to wildfire or other problems, or other management needs. **If changing pasture move dates becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with any part of these instructions, contact your Range Specialist to obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.**

With multiple uses on the forest, gates are often left open and livestock stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience. However, it is still your responsibility to keep your animals in the proper unit. Livestock found in the wrong units or allotments should be returned immediately to the correct pasture. Routine checks need to be made by you and/or your rider.

Compliance with all terms of your grazing permit is required. These annual operating instructions are not meant to be stand-alone or all inclusive

#### **STANDARDS AND GUIDES:**

You are responsible for determining when allowable use has been reached and for moving your cattle to the next unit in your rotation or off the allotment to avoid exceeding the standards. The Forest Service is responsible for monitoring your compliance with allowable use standards. The allowable use standards are listed below. If you need assistance with monitoring use, please contact your Range Specialist.

**RIPARIAN SITES:** Maximum 45% use of grasses, rushes and sedges or a minimum 4-inch stubble height of hydric greenline species, whichever occurs first.

**UPLAND SITES:** Early season pastures: 40% use of key species. With slow growth of vegetation, after seed ripe, or late season pastures: 50% use of key species (mountain brome, bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, squirreltail).

#### **IMPROVEMENTS:**

Range improvements listed in Part Three of your grazing permit must be maintained to a proper functioning condition *before livestock enter the allotment*. The maintenance standards listed in Part Three of your term permit must be followed when maintaining the improvements. As a reminder, if you need to use any mechanized machinery (such as tracked equipment), a written authorization from the District Ranger is required prior to use of that machinery. No ground disturbing activities or new construction should be conducted on the Forest by you or any of your personnel, without approval in writing from the District Ranger. Materials for reconstruction may be provided by the Forest Service as funding allows. **Provision of materials for normal annual maintenance is your responsibility.**

Wildlife escape ramps must be installed in troughs, and be in contact with the side of the trough. Contact your Range Specialist to request any wildlife ramps that you need.

#### **PERMITTEE INSTRUCTIONS:**

Dead livestock must be moved at least 100 yards from water, roads, campgrounds and trails.

Place salt a minimum of a ¼ mile from water sources and in areas lightly grazed to encourage an even distribution of utilization on the range

Invasive weeds are becoming a serious threat to the welfare of our rangelands. Your assistance is needed to identify new outbreaks of weed populations and to prevent the establishment of weeds on the forest. Pay particular attention to areas where stock are concentrated such as loading/unloading areas, water developments and salting areas. Consistent with the Noxious Weed Free Hay Order, any hay or straw that is brought onto National Forest System lands needs to be State-certified weed free. I am requesting that you be a pro-active partner in the prevention of noxious weeds on your allotment(s). All equipment which is used off of open roads for range improvement maintenance, or other management activities should be free of noxious weeds and their seeds prior to coming onto National Forest System lands.

#### **TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AUTHORIZATION:**

This direction serves as guidance for grazing permittees' authorization as it relates to the implementation of Travel Management on the Minidoka Ranger District.

Motor vehicle use is authorized on closed roads and trails (non-system routes) for improvement maintenance purposes only. Activities should be planned to avoid high use periods, such as hunting season and weekends, to reduce conflict with the general public. Motorized access in Seasonal Closure areas is not pre-authorized; permission to access these areas must be obtained from the District Ranger prior to entry. Roads and trails that have been physically closed through ripping, barricading, etc. are not authorized for your use, except in the limited instances where there may be structural improvements that need occasional maintenance.

Motor vehicle use off existing roads and trails (cross-country travel) is not authorized. Cross-country travel may be authorized for project-specific purposes only. The District Ranger must authorize these activities in writing in advance of the specific project. **Per Travel Management direction, livestock may not be gathered or herded cross-country with motorized vehicles. Placement of salt using an ATV/UTV off-road (cross-country) is not authorized.** Violation of this direction may result in a fine and Violation Notice or a Notice of Non-Compliance.

#### **BILLING:**

The 2021 grazing fee is \$1.35 per head month (27 cents for sheep). The Forest Service is required to give permittees a minimum of 30 days to pay your grazing fees; please pay your bill by the stated due date. Turnout of livestock prior to confirmation of payment is a violation of Part 2, Clause 3 of your term grazing permit and may result in an additional bill for unauthorized use. **You may make payment in one of three ways:**

- I. Mail your payment to the National Finance Center (NFC) at:

USDA Forest Service  
C/O US Bank  
P.O. Box 6200-09  
Portland, OR 97228-6200

You must include the Bill Number and Payer Code number on your check.

- II. Or, pay your bill online at: [WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY](http://WWW.FS.FED.US/BILLPAY). Save your receipt of payment.

- III. Or, pay your bill between the hours of 8:00 am and 4:30 pm via check, cash or money order at the Ranger District office.

Contact Courtney Keith, Support Services Supervisor at the Minidoka Ranger District (208)678-0430 if you have questions about paying your bill online.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

As a reminder, requests for personal convenience non-use must be submitted in writing; approval is not automatic and the authorized officer should discuss the reasons for the non-use request with the permittee. Full or partial personal convenience non-use may be approved by the District Ranger for no more than three consecutive years and not more than four years in any ten year period.

If you are planning to waive your Term Grazing Permit based on either sale of permitted livestock or base property, please submit this intention in writing, with ample notice, to the District Ranger prior to the transaction.

Actual use and range improvement maintenance forms have been included for you to complete and return at the end of the grazing season. Please use these forms to track your livestock management and range improvement work throughout the grazing season. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or concerns about this grazing season, please call Chantel Anderson at (208)260-2012 or (208)677-8295.



